BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Bertha Lee Nahoopii

Bertha Lee Nahoopii was born in Honolulu in 1931. An only child, she was raised by her mother, Mew Sin Hee Wong Lee, and grew up in Kapahulu.

She was schooled at Thomas Jefferson, Stevenson Intermediate, and Roosevelt High schools. In 1954, she graduated from the University of Hawai'i with a degree in recreation leadership.

While still a student at the university, she did her fieldwork at Pālama Settlement. After she graduated, she was hired as a recreation instructor and then served as the athletic director until 1957. She eventually became a policewoman with the Honolulu Police Department in the juvenile division.

She retired from the police department in 1990. She is married to Samuel Nahoopii and has three children.

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Bertha Lee Nahoopii (BN)

Waikīkī, O'ahu

May 9, 1997

BY: Holly Yamada (HY)

HY: This is an interview with Bertha Nahoopii. It's May 9, 1997, we're at the Elk's Club in Waikīkī and the interviewer is Holly Yamada.

HY: Okay, let's start with when and where you were born.

BN: Oh, I was born in Honolulu and attended local schools, graduated from Roosevelt High School, and went on to the University of Hawai'i and majored in recreation.

HY: When were you born?

BN: Nineteen thirty-one, April.

HY: And could you tell me about what your parents did?

BN: My mother [Mew Sin Hee Wong] was a schoolteacher at Robello [Lane] and Ka'iulani Schools, which is in the Pālama area, and my father [Foon Sang Lee] was a merchant. They were divorced when I was very young, so I was raised by my mother, although my father lived in Honolulu all the time. I had contacts with him and during these last few years I was kind of responsible for caring for him, although he lived independently.

HY: And where did you live?

BN: I lived in Kapahulu most of my life.

HY: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

BN: No, I have no brothers or sisters.

HY: And maybe you could describe the house that you lived in a little bit.

BN: Oh, when I was about four years old I moved to Kapahulu from upper Kaimukī because I was an asthmatic and a doctor wanted us to come into a drier climate and face the ocean instead of having your front door facing the mountain and getting a Pālolo draft. So after I moved to Kapahulu the asthma went away, overnight.

HY: What did the house look like that you—was it a small . . .

BN: Small, two-bedroom home. My mother had a architecture plan. Simple two-bedroom home.

HY: What do you know about her background? Was she an immigrant?

BN: No. She was a---her parents were immigrants, came here as rice planters. She was born on Kaua'i and she went to normal school [Territorial Normal and Training School] in Honolulu and pursued a career in teaching, elementary school teaching. And she taught for forty-two years.

HY: Did you have much contact with your Kaua'i relatives? Your mom's side?

BN: Yes. My mother had two brothers and two sisters. The oldest brother stayed in Kaua'i and the rest came to Honolulu. So I have just a few cousins. We're not a large family.

HY: And what about your dad's side of the family? Was he Honolulu-born?

BN: No, he was an immigrant from China. And I lately met one of my cousins and he asked me to take care of his apartment that he lived in Kapahulu—and moved to Australia recently. I didn't know him that well, only in the last few years.

HY: So this is a cousin on your father's side of the family?

BN: Father's side, yes.

HY: Did this cousin---did other members of his family move from China, too, or was it just. . .

BN: No, the cousin was born here.

HY: Oh, I see. Maybe you could describe the neighborhood a little bit where you grew up.

BN: Well, when I was young I walked to Thomas Jefferson School. We had a mixed-nationality community. At that time, there were children about my age. But not like recent, everybody moved away. So it's not the same as when you walk the neighborhood, you get to know everybody, and you play in the area. But now that you have a car, you drive in and out and you don't know your neighbors anymore. Although I moved from my present house about fifteen years ago, after we had the children. So I just moved five blocks *mauka*, in the Kapahulu area, which I still know, but it's a new district—new street—so meeting new friends again. So it's a little different, but I have still retained my old house.

HY: The house that you grew up in?

BN: Yeah, my son is occupying the house now.

HY: Oh, is that right?

BN: Yeah. So. . . .

HY: And it's on Kapahulu?

BN: It's on Winam [Avenue and] Hunter Street—one block off of Kapahulu Avenue. And I'm on Kaimukī Avenue now. So just went five blocks *mauka*.

HY: Do you remember playing outside with the . . .

BN: Oh yeah. Neighborhood kids, yeah.

HY: What kind of stuff would you guys do?

BN: Oh, we played marbles and climb the mango tree, pick mangos. Played on the streets a lot.

HY: Did you play sports back then?

BN: Not too much. But from about seventh-grade year, a block and a half away was a family that was very active in archery and water sports, Arthur and Irene Lee. And they had a home that had a—the boys that came back from the war [World War II] didn't have places to live, so they took them in. These were military, or after they serve their time, so it was like a community house over there. So we all jumped on the army truck and went off to the beach for swimming, surfing, fishing. So that was the start of my years of water activities at the Public Bath and then eventually at the Waikīkī Natatorium, where I engaged in competitive swimming at the Natatorium, where we had a swimming club.

HY: Were there a lot of girls involved in the swimming? Or was it mostly boys?

BN: No, girls and boys. In fact, my best friend during the intermediate [and] high school years was Thelma Kalama who became an Olympic champion swimmer. She was also raised by the Lee family. And she did a lot more training, so they helped her a lot. It was just a community activity home that we gathered at.

HY: You mentioned your mom was a teacher. Is that something that she stressed—that she stressed education to you? Or was that an important thing in your life?

BN: I guess it was just normal to pursue my education, to better myself. I didn't find it that easy, but I wanted to try to complete my schooling as much as possible. I tried every avenue. At the time, I was graduating from high school, trying to pursue some higher education, and tried even community college, pursuing any type of education or any type of training that would take me, (chuckles) if I didn't get into the University [of Hawai'i]. But I was able to enroll at the university.

HY: So you had always wanted to go to college then?

BN: Yeah.

HY: And you studied recreation?

BN: Recreation leadership, yeah. And that's how I did my fieldwork at the Pālama Settlement. And

did a year of fieldwork, and during my second term they asked me to stay on. They would create a position. I was the first female to be employed at the physical education department at Pālama, with the newly created position there.

HY: Who were some of your colleagues at UH [University of Hawai'i] while you were studying recreation? Do you remember?

BN: We had, I think we had one of the largest classes—groups—of students that were in recreation. About twenty-seven that year who graduated with recreation majors. Lot of them---most of them pursued educational field after couple of years of recreation itself. Of the twenty-seven, I'd say maybe a small handful—two, three—retired in recreation, and the rest were all teachers or pursuing other avenues. [I'm] trying to recall their names, like (Liane "Chick" Awai). Al[bert] Manliguis was a class older. He was a basketball coach at Hilo High [School]. And another classmate was Jarret Ng, N-G. He went back to Lāhainā. He was a social worker. In Honolulu, Betty Ann Lim and Tomie Yamasaki stayed in recreation. Two girls stayed in recreation.

HY: Were you the only one that ended up at Pālama Settlement?

BN: Yes. Uh-huh. Pālama was group work and recreation and a music school. So we had diversified activities there. And there was one "Sets" [Setsuko] Masuda Nozoe, she was a year ahead of me in recreation, and she was employed as a group worker at Pālama, a year ahead of me.

HY: So more in social work?

BN: Social work, yeah.

HY: What was her name again?

BN: Setsuko Masuda Nozoe, N-O-Z-O-E.

HY: What kind of—when you say you did fieldwork there—what did you do exactly?

BN: I was like an instructor. I was an instructor on a volunteer basis, getting school credit. I had to perform 150 hours a semester. And teaching swimming, teaching . . .

HY: Who did you work with? Was Nelson [Kawakami] there then?

BN: I was working with Nelson, yeah. Nelson was a swimming instructor, and he taught tennis, and softball—the field activities. We had the old gym at the time, so I taught basketball, we had volleyball, I taught trampoline and gymnastic activities, basic activities. And we played games.

HY: What age groups did you work with?

BN: Mostly elementary, for the gymnastics and young team sports. And then I did have the teenagers who—and plus I had swimming. I taught beginning swimming. And also we had a swimming team that ranged up to teenage years, to high school. And that became a heavy

daily activity, having the swimming team . . .

HY: Was this after you started working there, or while you were still doing fieldwork?

BN: Oh, that was after, yeah. When I was just doing fieldwork, I was just going three times a week for swimming and mostly elementary children activities.

HY: Were the kids from around—I assume they were from . . .

BN: Oh, neighborhood?

HY: Yeah.

BN: The children.

HY: You were hired in '51?

BN: [Nineteen] fifty-four.

HY: [Nineteen] fifty-four. Sorry. So you graduated in. . . .

BN: [Nineteen] fifty-four.

HY: So your fieldwork was in '53.

BN: Yeah, '53, '54, yeah. The summer of.

HY: Did Walter Ehlers hire you, or, who was it that . . .

BN: Yeah, Walter Ehlers was the [Pālama] Settlement director [1952-59]. And Kiyoshi Matsuo was the physical education director there. Nelson Kawakami was the other recreation instructor. And I became a recreation instructor also, concentrating on women's activities.

HY: Did you only teach women or were there . . .

BN: No, no, I---was teenage, I mean, mixed groups, elementary school. And also I was kind of responsible for some activities, like a show once a year. We had to gather—make a presentation—aquatic swimming, dancing, getting community people to perform. We had a Filipino group, got a Hawaiian group on the deck. And got synchronized swimming from the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] to come in and put on a performance, a night show. That was when I was hired already. During my internship was just playing with the—teaching the game activities.

HY: Your title was athletic director? Is that right?

BN: After year and a half, Kiyoshi Matsuo left to be the director of sub[marine] base recreation activities, and so there was an opening at the settlement for a directorship. And I guess with some thought, they considered me to fill in in that position. So I took over being the physical education director there.

HY: Was that unusual to have a director . . .

BN: It was new in the sense of having a female getting a position there. It was a change.

HY: Did you feel . . .

BN: I felt I could do the work, yeah.

HY: And did you feel that people responded to you in the same way?

BN: Oh, I think so, yeah.

HY: So there wasn't really, say a transition from—anybody needs to make an adjustment from a male director to a female director?

BN: No, I ended up being responsible for the paperwork, (chuckles) the budget. And Pālama was always on a low budget, and so having to solicit for sporting equipment was an important factor.

HY: How did you go about doing that, getting funds for equipment and stuff like that?

BN: No, funds I didn't get. It was through our own budget with Community Chest at the time. But trying to beg and borrow and steal for an extra basketball or a volleyball.

HY: How would you go about trying to get equipment?

BN: Well at the time, teams used to come and rent the gym. They'd leave us an old (chuckles) basketball. You know we could only buy a couple of basketballs a year, and so they'd kind of looked at our dilapidated balls and, "Okay, you can have one of ours." That's how we got equipment. And at the time, I think military recreation areas, like when Kiyoshi Matsuo went to sub base, and he had contacts with the military people. So then we got some equipment that way.

HY: Oh, okay.

BN: The sporting goods salesman would try to hustle, he made the contacts.

HY: So who else used your facilities besides . . .

BN: Oh we had---I started a calisthenics class for working women. And at that time, I had to sweep and mop the gym at night (chuckles), because they're laying on the floor in activities. And we had Farrington High School come over for basketball. We were the nearest gym for Farrington. So they had gym time after school. And telephone company had a league or they would come and practice in the evenings. And evening activities, we had badminton for our adult classes for the people there. So it was open to the public, a lot of uses.

People came in all the time. And for the adults to use the facilities, it was like having a membership card of, I think, dollar and ten cents a year (chuckles) at that time. I know even the kids would need a card. And that was, I forgot how much, maybe ten cents or

something—the use of the facilities. And even to get the adults, the gang at Pālama, the men who hung around all the time, sometimes Lorin Gill [Pālama Settlement social worker, 1953-64; executive director, 1964-68] would take them out and make a work project so that they could earn the membership, because it was kind of like against their principle to go pay (chuckles) for something. I mean, I've been here for a long time, so to make it legal that they had a card, we put a work project, and they earn their card.

HY: What kind of stuff would he have them do?

BN: Go cut wood, or go clean the fresh air camp at Pālama-by-the-Sea, fix the—I mean, just maybe just one weekend ask them to do some general cleaning labor.

HY: So these were people that just hung around . . .

BN: They [were] the old adult Pālama boys that hung around. And every day they'd come, come play and shoot baskets or just sit there, talk story.

HY: Were they from the neighborhood?

BN: From the neighborhood, yeah.

HY: Did they mostly---were they retired? Or young men?

BN: No, no, they weren't retired yet, they were young men, yeah. Old Pālama boys were. . . . Then we also had an in-between group that played—we started out with football teams. Well, Pālama was noted for, long time ago, the Winged P Pālama football teams, the barefoot league. And then later on that went downgrade, so we started up an intermediate league while I was there. We had volunteer coaches that coached the intermediate level, just before high school. And some of the boys went on to be all-stars at high school. We had a good prep at Pālama. Also Pālama had judo, *kenpō*, and aikido, we had a room specially made for martial arts activities.

HY: Were you an instructor in all these activities or did you just sort of organize all those?

BN: Organize and---like the judo area, the volunteers were there forever and they just continued on. They knew that they had the run of the judo class. Jerry Tarutani was there for I-don't-know-how-many years. He taught the Saturday morning judo class to young children.

HY: These were---they were volunteers?

BN: All volunteers, yeah.

HY: Was that how most of your instructors were—they were staffed by . . .

BN: Staffed by volunteers. We didn't have money to pay for (chuckles) anything there.

HY: So they would just volunteer from your community?

BN: Yeah, and even the football program was all volunteered people. All the coaches of the teams

were volunteers also.

HY: Were there any restrictions or different regulations with girls and boys sports? Or any other kind of groups? The girls didn't play barefoot football, yeah?

BN: No.

HY: It was all guys?

BN: Yeah. But the girls had---the teenagers---we had two gyms, they call it big gym and small gym. And in the small gym—it was a well-used gym. The floor was so smooth they used to slide on their knees. The after school-activity kids liked the small gym, because they had volleyball in that one. A low-sagging net, but just enough for them to play team sports. Then we were able to purchase a trampoline, and the kids liked that new activity for them. And we produced a couple of divers for our swimming team out of the use of the trampoline.

HY: Who were some of the people that kind of emerged out of the Pālama programs while you were there? And went on to do . . .

BN: A good nucleus came from the swimming team that I had a lot of contact with. Harry Mamizuka was the coach, so I was the assistant coach along with him. Randy Chun, Patrick [Murata]. . .

HY: Did you coach them—you folks did competitions?

BN: Yes.

HY: Who did you compete with?

BN: Hawai'i swim team, Punahou [School], outside island teams—Hawai'i, Maui, Kaua'i . . .

HY: Did you travel?

BN: Age group, it was age group. We traveled. The first age group swimming meet was in Pu'unēnē, Maui. And we took a group of twenty-five swimmers, and we stayed in Mike Harada's grandparents' home in Pu'unēnē. [Mike Harada was one of the teenage swimmers.] The girls stayed with the grandparents and the boys went to a little plantation cottage a block away. They had to pull the weeds, sweep the floor, and get the house clean when they moved in for their week of hotel. And the swimming pool was another block away, so it was very convenient that we had this house in Pu'unēnē and the kids were able to swim in the flume in front of the Harada house while they were waiting for us to cook.

And we did our cooking on a kerosene stove and a wood-burning stove outside. The kerosene stove was inside. And we had to cook for, what, thirty people four times a day. So as soon as we finished breakfast, we started lunch. Then we could take them to visit—on excursions around, look and see Maui. While we were cooking, we kept them busy swimming in the flume, which they enjoyed. It was a current coming down, and they swam upstream. Typical of what Coach [Soichi] Sakamoto's good swimmers did when they first learned how to swim, compete in the Pu'unēnē flumes. And then we won a lot of awards. The kids were in good

shape and first-time experience, we won a lot of awards. And then the second year we went to Hilo, and we stayed in the army barracks right outside the swimming pool. And we had to also prepare our own food. We were on a very small budget, but we took forty swimmers that second year. And our budget was like hundred dollars . . .

(Laughter)

BN: . . . to feed all of them.

HY: How did you get . . .

BN: We took our food, we had government-issue food, and then we were given fresh vegetable, and Hilo sponsor was a dairy, so he brought the milk over. And that was the first time we gave kids vitamins, and it was something that they never had before. And having them eat fresh vegetables, which they're not used to eating in their daily diet at home. So we tried to keep them on a good, healthy diet and we won another—I forgot to bring some pictures, I didn't know where they are—but we were able to win a lot more ribbons and awards for our activities, swimming events there.

HY: Do you remember the dairy that sponsored you? What the name of it was?

BN: Well, on Maui---no, Haleakalā Dairy, Maui Haleakalā Dairy. And the community---while we were on Maui, somebody just drops off a bag of head cabbage and fresh fruits and oranges off the trees.

HY: So the community knew you were coming?

BN: No, I guess the contact that we had, people helped us out.

HY: What about transportation? How did you get there?

BN: We rented one car and we had the Harada's grandpa's car and we kind of drove in shifts. And we rented a couple of cars, you know, so that we could all fit and then go on an excursion to see part of the island.

HY: What about---did you come by plane or . . .

BN: Oh, we went by plane.

HY: How did you get airfare?

BN: Funding? We had to sell sweet bread. It was Buck's [Bake Shop] sweet bread at the time. So we sold a lot of sweet bread to meet our expenses. And it was like twenty dollars at that time for airfare, so it was easy.

HY: Was that part of your job, then, to get sponsors to help you during these travel . . .

BN: I think if we wanted to get something, you had to go out and reach the community for it. We sold to the staff members a lot (chuckles), that had to try to help. And then from our own

pockets, I guess, we always had to help. You go to swimming meets, you come home, I mean, you gotta kind of feed them a lot—you stay five hours at a swimming meet even over here going to Punahou swimming pool. And we had swimming meets at Pālama Settlement also. And the parents ran a food booth so we could gain some money there. And it was always looking after the kids, helping.

HY: How involved were the parents usually?

BN: Just a few parents, not too many. They were not the way children are in this day, where every parent is there sitting alongside. Over there we took the kids to the swimming meets and brought them back and I had to drive them home every night. So my day was long if we had to go to a swimming meet, make sure that I got the kids back home because parents were not there to pick up and (chuckles) help you out.

HY: So you structured your own way of running the programs? Is that right?

BN: Well, as you see fit, you just do.

HY: You initiated . . .

BN: What you need, you make do, and create some of the activities, you keep them busy.

HY: Were there any kind of discipline problems over the years that you were there?

BN: No, no. Actually, they were well behaved. Because we had two coaches, Harry Mamizuka and myself, and he was a very strong disciplinarian. And they liked him very much and he made them toe the mark. I mean, swimming time, get in the pool, he'd issue the orders—what laps you gotta do, and you gotta check strokes. They liked the activities, so the kids really respected everyone there. Maybe just one *kolohe* kid, maybe just kidding around, but not a—there were no drugs at the time, so very respectful kids.

HY: What about with each other? Did they have fights among each other?

BN: Once in a while, jealousies or something. But basically they were well grouped, look after each other, good friends, you know. My second year in the swimming team, like in Hilo, we took five girls and twenty boys. I'd say the five girls (laughs) were more problematic than twenty boys. You know, becomes boyfriend---I mean, they were getting little older, looking for attention. (Chuckles)

HY: So they were more of a problem?

BN: They were more of a problem, yeah. (Laughs) "I like this one, and I like that one," you know, just jealousy, but not that much.

HY: So the swim teams that you took to the neighbor islands were older than—they were intermediate [and] high school age? Is that right?

BN: From elementary to . . .

HY: The whole range.

BN: Yeah, the whole range, yeah. Well, our youngest was about nine at the time. Nine to seventeen. Oh Patrick Murata, he was one of the swimmers. And Skippa Diaz was a swimmer, and Mike Harada—that was his grandpa's house we went to in Pu'unēnē, Maui. And Mike and Patrick Murata are social workers. [Edward] "Skippa'" Diaz, he's a teacher at Farrington. Patrick [Murata], and Jeffrey [Yamashita], Larry Yamashita—I can't think of the last boy—the Yamashita boys, two were policemen, Jeffrey and Larry Yamashita, policemen. I got to see them a lot. Larry worked in juvenile division with me. There was a third brother, [Lincoln Yamashita] he's a teacher. And Skippa had a brother, Ramon "Butchie" Diaz. He was on the swimming team. And we have Ben Aipa, he's a professional surfer and surfboard maker now, well-known surfboard maker.

HY: You were there until '57, is that right?

BN: I left for the police department at the end of '57, but I continued on after work to kind of help run some of the activities in the evening hours.

HY: You volunteered . . .

BN: I volunteered my services and kept the books, budget. Until they hired a---oh I don't know who succeeded me in the department after that.

HY: I know what I wanted to ask you—do you remember what your pay rate was back then?

BN: Oh, yeah, about $210 I started off, [$]210 a month. We got increments [pay raises] of $5 a year (chuckles) for Community Chest, whatever, donations that we could get. At that time a lot of my money was spent to take the kids sometimes, you know? Go out, take them out, have a lunch or dessert or something.

HY: Were these kids that mostly didn't have too much money from . . .

BN: Oh yeah, they're all from the Mayor Wright [Homes] housing and Pālama [Street] so. . . . Lot of parents were on welfare, I think. So they didn't have too much, especially the kids who came from the Mayor Wright area. Parents were not working.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

HY: Okay, you were talking about how most of the families were Mayor Wright families and indigent population. How much interaction did you have with the other departments, I guess, at Pālama?

BN: Was more the activities of the boys who had clubs that they belonged to. The Jokers and I don't know what name of the [other] clubs that they had. Some of them belonged to that with Lorin Gill, who enrolled them in his club activities. And there was---actually, Pālama also had

camping, too. They had the facilities at Pālama-by-the-Sea, and they had a lot of group activities going camping with their clubs. That became a close-knit little relationship for them, belonging to groups. That's the fellowship that—I mean, lifelong fellowship—that I see with them.

HY: So how were these clubs formed then?

BN: Age group. Yeah. Fellowship in terms of, maybe classmates at the same school. Was just, I think, maybe a group of twelve belonging to one group and each group at a time.

HY: And would these club group members do the same activities then?

BN: They met, they would meet once or twice a week, here at the gym on the swimming pool side. It was activities for them every day. They needed to do something everyday, so we took up most of their time there.

HY: Did you work with just individual club groups and then move on to the next club? Or were they all mixed up together versus something . . .

BN: As far as the clubs, they met by themselves. I mean, with the leaders at the group work side. And when they came over, it was kind of like free-play afternoon activities. They wanted to come in for basketball or volleyball or play softball out in the field. And special activities would be tennis that Nelson [Kawakami] taught. And swimming was open to a wide range of everyone who wanted. We had beginner swimming everyday and then free swim.

HY: You mentioned earlier that you had started a calisthenics group for working women. What gave you the idea to do something like that?

BN: There was a request for some kind of physical activity for the working people. The gym was---we had an open night, and a couple of women came along and wanted to have some muscle-toning activities, so they requested a class to be held at the settlement.

HY: So it was someone from the community that suggested that?

BN: Yeah, uh-huh.

HY: Was that common to start programs by suggestions from the community?

BN: Mm-hmm. Or like, the [executive] director Walter Ehlers [1952-59] would come and say, "Let's generate more use of the facilities. Let's see what we can do, and promote some activity."

HY: So how closely did you work with Lorin Gill then?

BN: Oh, pretty close because we all worked in the same area. We would have staff meetings once a week and he would take the kids on the hikes on the weekends and go camping. So it was just like another coworker.

HY: Who else did you work with, closely?

BN: "Sets" [Setsuko Masuda] Nozoe and "Winnie" [Winifred] Ishimoto was the group work director at the time.

HY: You worked closely with both?

BN: Yeah. So we would challenge [each other]. I said recreation was the tool to group work (chuckles). [They said] group work was the tool to recreation.

(Laughter)

BN: It was a challenge between.

HY: A slight philosophical difference.

BN: Right (laughs), I'd say, "You need us." (Laughs)

HY: But there was cooperation?

BN: Oh yes.

HY: And how much interaction did you have with Walter Ehlers?

BN: Every week we had a staff meeting. He would be in it.

HY: So you were aware of . . .

BN: Oh yes. We would have a roundtable of music, preschool, group work, and athletic [programs].

HY: Was John Kelly in?

BN: He was music school director.

HY: And did you work with him?

BN: Yes. In fact, his two daughters were on the swimming team. In fact I just met Colleen yesterday, his daughter was out here. So that's how we were very close with John and Marion Kelly. And the kids were part of the swimming team. They lived on the premises.

HY: He left after you left. Is that right?

BN: Yes. He's kind of like---he took the older boys, Pālama boys, the working boy, the one that hung around the gym, he took them body surfing. So he had a function [to] work these guys to keep them active.

HY: You mentioned that you traveled to the neighbor islands with your swim team. Were there other activities that you were competing with other teams?

BN: No, just the swim meet.

HY: Why do you think swimming became more widespread?

BN: Well, age-group swimming was a big activity at that time, and we sponsored in conjunction with all the swimming teams. [It] was our turn to hold a swimming meet at Pālama. And during the season would be Pālama, Punahou, a Hawai'i Swim Club, Coach [Soichi] Sakamoto's group. So we had at least---it was that time of teenage swimming. They were making good progress in swimming at the time, and kids were interested in it. Very grueling, but they stuck it out.

HY: What was the philosophy about why recreation was important? Maybe you could talk about what the thinking was about that.

BN: Well, we were able to increase their awareness, I think, with team sport, being able to follow through in your goals and fellowship. In fact, our kids when they went to swimming meets and they got to know other swimmers who they competed against, they were friendly—reached out to others. And given the judge—Boyd Mossman [is now a] judge on Maui—he was the same age as the swimmers that I had at Pālama. So they became good friends with all the different swimmers from every club. I think it became a lifelong relationship, fellowship. I get to see them once in a while. And you know when you remember each other from your young days? Pālama meant so much to them, because Pālama was able to service them six days a week. Only Sundays, I guess, unless they went camping but, it was a place to go and be safe. Otherwise what would they—there would be no place to hang around.

HY: How much interaction did you have with other community agencies? Community or government agencies, I guess.

BN: Not that much. I think more so after I went to the police department that we attended functions with the community social agencies—family court, child and family service, Salvation Army. At the time, my captain, Kenneth Cundiff, was president of the community agencies. So he believed in for us to associate with the other agencies because they were our referrals, in terms of police work. And I knew lot of---I guess in my own experiences, because I worked with the group work at Pālama, they had the contacts with the social agencies. So agencies played a large part in services for the families at Pālama. We tried to bring service to the families, whatever they needed.

HY: When you were still at Pālama, do you remember interacting at all with the police department?

BN: No.

HY: Or was it mostly after you got to the police department?

BN: Yeah.

HY: And what was it that made you leave Pālama?

BN: I left Pālama to return to school. I wanted to get a teaching certificate—fifth-year teaching certificate—which would mean two summers and a year would give me my fifth-year teaching certificate. So I said, "Well, here's another avenue that I wanted to pursue." And while I

was---after the summer I was in the first semester at university, I took the agility test and the written exam for the police department, and I said, "Well, I'll give it a try." They were advertising for policewomen, so I said, "I'll give it a try." My uncle [Harry T. K. Hee] was a police officer so there was some influence in that. And I said, well, if I didn't like it, I could go back and get my teaching certificate during that transition period. But I never found anything to replace that situation.

I mean, being a policewomen was, I felt, the best job I could have. I had freedom to make my referrals, work with juveniles, and on the similar situation, like Pālama, working with direct one-on-one contacts. And now working with the Juvenile [Crime Prevention] Division it was with the parents' involvement, because we were working a lot with runaways. And it was like a disruptive family and they needed counseling to bring them home again, work their relationship out, get the communication going for the child and the parents. Miscommunication is what sets off the child to misbehave, run away and feel that they're not wanted. So we had to work hard in getting them . . . .

HY: Now at that time you were one of, was it four other women in the. . .

BN: Yeah.

HY: How was that working as a policewomen in a primarily all-male field?

BN: We were like an offshoot of a social agency—we offered counseling, offered services to right the wrongs of the family and referral agencies to bring in the needs to improve the family. So I went through the training of a normal police officer, the recruit school. But in the field, I had already an experience from Pālama Settlement. I guess being there helped me a lot in being able to familiarize myself with the family needs. And we were able to work with referrals to the family court, but also giving ourselves more time to work the problem as much as we could before referring to the court system. If we could prevent them from going into the court system, we tried to offer services. Just being there when they need our help—talking to them. Sometimes they needed somebody to talk to or correct the misunderstandings that the family . . .

HY: What were some of the bigger problems that you had to deal with? I know you were in the, excuse me, you were with the juvenile. . .

BN: Juvenile division.

HY: And all the women that you worked with were in . . .

BN: All state, yeah, uh-huh. We handled---heavy involvement was with runaway.

HY: Was that the main problem?

BN: Yeah, and they were truant, they misbehaved and given the lickings by the parents. Many times underlying problem of sexual involvement, which made them run away from the home. Sometimes we have to find alternative homes or return them home with a better understanding of how to get along with the parents.

HY: Were there any particular areas that you dealt with? I mean geographical areas, were there certain neighborhoods that were more prone to runaways?

BN: No, I had the whole island. We were given cases per child name. So it was just . . .

HY: Widespread, all over.

BN: All over, yeah.

HY: How long did you stay in that division?

BN: I stayed there thirty-two years. Yeah, I only concentrated on juvenile work, and I felt that working one-on-one with the families was very rewarding in a sense, yeah. Not to look for a promotion and be away from the direct contact with families. I thought that was more important.

HY: So you were kind of like part social worker . . .

BN: Yeah.

HY: Part police . . .

BN: Police work with authority. So lock them up, and we had the detention home alternative to place them into while we seeking avenues of diversion. Lot of diversion, and understanding, better understanding. Hardhead (chuckles), kids.

HY: What age group did you deal with? What juveniles are in that age group?

BN: Well, a lot of these were from the early teens, about twelve 'till they're maybe eighteen, then they got out. The early---well, we were assigned more of the girls, and then the detectives in the division were assigned the boys. So we really concentrated on the female population, the policewomen.

HY: Why do you think they had it that way? That you folks dealt with the girls . . .

BN: Well, it was just distribution of assignment—case assignment. We had men in the division that were ranked. (Chuckles) They had a detective rank, and we were the policewomen who had the police officer ranking. And so assignments were---female runaways or female activities or theft cases belonged to policewomen.

HY: Were there different kinds of problems with the girls that ran away? Were there different kinds of crimes?

BN: Well there was theft and burglaries—well, burglaries were not handled by juvenile [division], they were handled by the criminal investigation division.

HY: Even if they were girls?

BN: Yeah, depending on---the line of demarcation would be the type of case, if it were burglary-

theft, detective division—we call it detective division—which is criminal investigation. And juvenile [division] would [handle] misdemeanor—social problems.

HY: Oh, I see.

BN: Yeah.

HY: So how much interaction did you have with the other divisions?

BN: Not too much, because juvenile division was always by law removed from the main building. So we were always housed across the street from the main station. Only with the police officer coming into the division, bringing in the kids in, did we get to know other police officers. Otherwise, not that much.

HY: And was there a cooperation?

BN: Oh yes, there was no problem with that.

HY: You must have noticed the change over the years, because you were there for so long. What kinds of problems did you see as you worked your career throughout the police department . . .

BN: In the . . .

HY: In the types of caseload . . .

BN: The caseload in my last, oh, about average of five years, we went into child abuse [cases]. And then spouse abuse became a heavy caseload. Juvenile division then kind of threw runaways as a nonstatus offense. It was not a law violation, and then a criminal investigation more so with child abuse because it was an assault. So I was involved in handling child abuse [cases] with the parents, misunderstandings.

HY: When did you start to see more child abuse cases?

BN: Oh, the last, 1980s. The later years of the [19]80s, yeah.

HY: But prior to that it was mostly still runaways . . .

BN: Still runaways, theft cases, yeah. [It was] about the [19]80s when we had child abuse [cases]. When Child Protective Service became active, and we were hand in hand with a social worker, police officer go in jointly on a case together out in the field. It was good, we needed the relationship [to include] one enforcer. But the social workers did all the work; they took them [the juveniles] to court with the parents. But they [the juveniles] were given a break—I mean, [if they] toe the line. Sometimes [parents] lick 'em just because of behavior, and we said, "Okay, [try to be more] understanding." You look at a runaway, who's abused, too, but [before] we only looked at the runaway in the early stages, and not finding fault at the parent who was abusing the child.

Then we looked at the other way, that it was a criminal action that the parent was causing the

child to misbehave, so then we went into the early stages, from zero—from birth up—to look at abuse. Before that, it was about an early teenager who came to our attention as a runaway, and then the law kind of looked at, what about the ones who are still in the home at age zero? So they needed services, too. And then child abuse [awareness] came about heavy nationwide to look at that type of cases coming about.

HY: Do you think that there were always child abuse cases around? Or was that something that happened more in the [19]80s? Or is it just something that the focus was different?

BN: The focus was changed, yeah. It was always there, but more attention turned to—it's not right to do it. Giving a lickings or getting a broken arm. Why? Let's investigate. I mean, more reporting came about in the later years. Before [it] was just normal [to say], "Okay, so he got lickings." The attitude of getting lickings or being abused . . .

HY: Changed.

BN: Was changed, yeah, yeah. And then now I think the trend is [to focus] heavily on spouse abuse, or abuse of household member.

HY: When did you start seeing more cases like that?

BN: I'd say in the [19]90s, then they were going against trying to prevent abuse of household member. Lot of it is caused by financial problems and, again, communication—not being able to understand each other. And then the drugs started coming heavily. Abusive parents because of their involvement in drugs.

HY: When did you start seeing more problems with drug abuse?

BN: Just about---I retired in 1990 so I would have to say few years before that, in the late [19]80s. We knew about crystal meth[amphetamine], I mean, coming. Hawai'i was just a later years in getting involved, but crystal meth was becoming heavier usage. Marijuana was taking lower toll and crystal meth was coming in. But if you say in my earlier years we had—what was the other drugs? It just skipped my mind about psychedelic stuff. You know, in those early years.

HY: That would be in the [19]70s?

BN: Yeah, there was always some kind of drug involved.

HY: What about when you first started working at the department then, did you ever see drugs abuse problems?

BN: No. At that time, everything was good, it wasn't too heavy. The caseload got heavier as more problems came about. I'd say in the [19]60s though, I was on a committee at Pālama. Earlene Chambers Piko was trying to organize community involvement because she felt that we should be looking at the elementary level—early years—and she was ahead of her time, because people were talking about drug use of teenagers and up. And she felt that we've got to get in and educate people about the use of drugs in the elementary level, and she was trying to coordinate a committee to look into education at that time. She was so far ahead. That was in the [19]60s.

HY: Oh, how was her idea received?

BN: I mean, it took time, but now we're trying to educate people about problems in the early ages. She was just---she had her degrees in education, so she wanted to coordinate at that level. Slow, everything in Hawai'i's behind, getting funding. But now they're looking at early education and treatment—drug babies, druggies.

HY: Was that part of your job to do community education as a policewoman in the police department?

BN: No. We had community relations groups that did that. We did more one-on-one.

HY: I see.

BN: But actually, in the juvenile division, Lucile ["Luci"] Abreu and myself, we created our own style of counseling, in terms of helping families and stuff. Whereas the other people there was more police-prone—violations, arrests, refer to family court, the cycle of, "You violated, okay. I'll book you, send you to court, and then you're out." But I think Luci and I took the little longer term to try to work it out with people. I mean, if we can prevent it from happening again, that would be one case less. So we took a little more preventive attitude ourselves. I mean, it wasn't the police function.

HY: You took it upon yourself to approach it that way?

BN: Yeah. At the time, I guess depend on the command. The command allowed us to work it deeper with the kids, although if there was a need to refer to a family court—we were supervised all the time—we did. But yet, kind of hold hands with the family, to see them off. My husband [Samuel Nahoopii] was involved in counseling at Kalani High School, he was a counselor. But he was also the mayor's summer program coordinator for employment of the disadvantaged children. So during the summer months, I'd refer all my kids, go get a job. And if you're a law violator, "Hey, how about a job. I'll put you and place you," and tell my husband, "Hire this one and hire that one," you know. So I would find the jobs for them make them fit in to be employed. And again, employment is the highest form of prevention. Money talks. They earn their way, they toe the line. So that was an avenue of helping kids out. There's always a way to find something for them.

And I think from being at Pālama, from the early days of working with kids at Pālama, we kind of felt that if you lead them with the hand, then you get results. If you're a social worker you tell them, "Okay, there's a door, there's a job. Go in that door," it won't happen. You have to go with them, make sure they got it, then you back off. But you don't back off until you accomplish that—just a little, they need some help, some guidance. So just getting them across the street into the building and seeing that they got it, and then you back off. So that was the means of direction that we offered. It was just like a---I guess Pālama taught us that. You know, you just cannot send people.

I guess working with the disadvantaged at the settlement was different. Also community, different people looking at it in different ways. I mean, to be too strict, too cold about it, you don't get accomplishments. If you give it a little more warmth, helping hand, you get it done. You get it.

HY: Did you find any resistance to approaching your cases like that, or was that a pretty accepted thing?

BN: Oh, yeah. I walked into child abuse cases, the social worker—you know, their parents are angry. "How come I'm reported? How come you have a case against me?" And then I convince them that although I'm from the police, "I'm a social worker, we're here to help you. It's going to be at least one thing better because we're walking into your life." Explaining that to them, friendship—maybe I knew them from the beginning, too. I knew them as teenagers, right? So the relationship of familiarity helped me walk into it. And said, okay, "Now, you're going to court, you're going to do this, but I want you to go get certain kind of services. We'll be watching you, but if you need our help, we help you, and guide you down." And after you break the barrier of that relationship, it was easy to work with them. In fact I had a case, this lady, I guess she was a [tape inaudible], she was a delinquent herself. And when I became involved in the case, the social worker was too cold and not offering the services. She felt that the social worker didn't do much for her. When she went to court, she asked me to come along, and we have pre-group discussion. And I said, you know, I'm here with her and yet I'm the police looking at the charging end of it, but she wants me to hold her hand. She couldn't get along with the social worker.

(Laughter)

BN: So every time she went to court to face the judge she'd call me, "I gotta go to court today, come and help me." I mean just to be there with her. And when you set the line, "Okay, I want you to do this, this," if they find the confidence, they'll work with all agencies. So it was good on that part.

HY: Who were some of the other policewomen you worked with?

BN: Lucile Abreu, [Leimomi] "Momi" Lum, her father was [Assistant Police] Chief [Dewey O.] Mookini. He was the chief, Mookini—Chief Mookini. And then had Anne Carlisle, Blanche Bast, the two were sergeants. We had Hoaliku Drake—later she became involved, and Evelyn Keliihoomalu. And I helped Karen West come in to the department, I got her involved in Pālama Settlement when I first met her. She worked at Pālama Settlement and then after she wanted the change, I helped her get to the police department. And she worked in the juvenile division with me for many years, too.

HY: Did any of the women go into upper divisions, or did you folks generally stay with juvenile?

BN: Well, only Luci Abreu, who was fighting for equal status, got to the criminal investigation division. The rest all stayed in the juvenile division. And then the growth of additional women were coming along, that in order to get promoted you had to go in the field, put on a uniform, and go to other divisions.

HY: You folks were all nonuniformed at that time.

BN: Right, yeah.

HY: Why is that?

BN: Because we were working with juveniles, and they felt that uniform was [intimidating when] working with families. We didn't want a uniform to scare any[body]. The division is still a plain-clothes unit, although they do have to have a uniform now for other social functions. That relieved us [from] other activities. (Chuckles) We didn't have to get involved in [other activities], not having a uniform. But I think it's easy. You sneak in and nobody knows who you are. When we're doing investigation with the social worker, I come in and sit in with them, and they don't know who I am. I sneak my card in, and use my calling card, and, "Oh, police." But it's not that strong barrier as if a uniformed person was sitting in front of you.

HY: They think that's more intimidating than . . .

BN: Yeah, yeah.

HY: We should probably stop . . .

BN: Okay.

HY: And change the tape again.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 27-25-1-97; SIDE ONE

HY: Okay, you were talking about. . . . I guess I wanted to ask you about Lucile Abreu. You said she was the only one that went into another division. She was fighting for equal rights.

BN: Equal rights in promotion.

HY: In promotion. Was that a big issue at that time?

BN: Yeah. She wanted, I mean . . .

HY: Who was resisting her drive for that?

BN: The chief, I guess.

HY: Yeah.

BN: Yeah. Chief [Francis] Keala at that time. Part of it---I was [talking] daily with her and I kept saying, "You know the guy who got promoted out of our division into data processing or community relations, it's a position, it's not a male or female [position], but it was just a position that he went into. He didn't know any more than you did. They learn on the job." So we kind of pushed the issue that she wasn't allowed to take the test, you know. [BN corrects self] No, no, she was allowed to take the test, but was never given the promotion.

HY: Did she feel that it was mostly because she was a woman?

BN: Yeah, yeah. I felt that a position is just a position, male or female. She could do some of the activities. Maybe she could not do some of the other kind activities, but basically we went to recruit school and were trained to be a police officer and we did everything that they—the officers—did. So equal job. We were always left behind, even in pay. Men in our division, in the old times, were detectives already before they came to juvenile division. But the women did not have the status of pay in a detective rank, they were police officers.

HY: What was the pay differential in that day?

BN: Uh, fifty bucks. Increment difference. Civil service status, right? But as far as I look at it, I wanted to be working with juveniles, one-on-one and not be a supervisor. Kind of, in a way, be out of contact with families. So I chose not to seek promotion, just stay in the juvenile division. I like that better.

HY: When was it that she kind of broke through that?

BN: I think 1975. Yeah, about 1975.

HY: Now was she accepted, then, when she . . .

BN: Oh yeah, she went over to detective division. I mean, see, we knew our investigation [procedures]. The only difference was that we did not handle felonies. I mean, we trained and everything. All you gotta do is do a little more investigation and go to court and handle the felony. But the felonies were handled by the ranking officer—detectives. So, I couldn't see the difference between the other officer, the male person who was in our division, who had the rank. He handled misdemeanors, too. So how come we're not paid the same? (Chuckles)

HY: Did the other women feel like that was unfair too?

BN: Yeah, Momi [Lum] was very instigative in terms of wanting, but . . .

HY: So you folks talked about it?

BN: Yeah, but she did her own thing, so she didn't care. And she went out by the time---just about the time Luci got her promotion, Momi retired already. But we did have two women, older women, who were already detectives—Anne Carlisle and Blanche Bast. So they were detectives. Then later after Luci broke through, then Kathy Payne got promoted to sergeant and to detective and lieutenant later. And then Barbara Uphouse. But just the group that we worked together at the juvenile division, the ranking was not there.

HY: Did you notice a difference in the different chief of police over the years? You were there for several different . . .

BN: Chiefs.

HY: Yeah.

BN: Well . . .

HY: Who was---was it Dan . . .

BN: Dan Liu.

HY: Dan Liu was there. Was he the first---he was there for . . .

BN: Long, yeah. He was there. He didn't bother us. I guess everybody ran their ship with [their] commanders. Captain [Kenneth] Cundiff, I was there with [him] many years. He had a broad outlook in terms of handling—he was in charge of the council of social agencies, so he liked to be involved in other agencies and knowing what they did, as compared to later on when we had different commands, their attitude changed. And when we got to the last few years, it was, "Lay off that other stuff. It's just criminal investigation only. And just book 'em, charge 'em, and out. No social intervent[ion] anymore."

HY: So how did you feel about that change in direction?

BN: I didn't like it.

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

HY: Okay, so there were some that had a different philosophy about that.

BN: Yeah. In the end, they didn't want us to---well, in between, we worked, there was exchange of work with CPS, Child Protective [Services], where each case they had was one case working with us. So every day our load would go with the social worker, we'll work it together. But the attitudes changed now that the police does not recognize the social worker working together with the police.

HY: Why do you think that is? Why do you think the attitude changed?

BN: I don't know.

HY: Is that how it is today?

BN: Yeah. The social workers really want the help of the police, they want them on the scene. They're getting a hard time, they call for the police backup and stuff. No response. The attitude changed.

HY: Why do you think that is?

BN: Change of philosophy, I don't know. I mean, you know, a little help helps them get their work done, and they're the ones who carry the big load. They're bogged down with work. So my attitude was as much as we can relieve them and assist them [we should]. They do all the presenting to court. We didn't have to do that much. I felt was good. I enjoyed that the most, because working with the social workers, back in my early years, coordinating, working together with social workers, like group workers, it was a tie in together. And knowing the agencies, I knew where all the agencies were already. So, for me, it was easy to facilitate the cases. The others had to learn it, but it was kind of on-the-job training that I had. Through many years of working with juveniles I had this opportunity to assist the families in working

things out.

HY: You mentioned that you had a problems with one of the social workers where you had to hold the hand of the woman you had charged, actually.

BN: Yeah.

HY: Was that unusual, or did you usually get along with your social workers?

BN: Oh, I got along with the social worker, but the client didn't.

HY: Oh, oh, I see.

BN: Yeah. Social worker's not a problem. It's the client who had a dislike and felt that she was being railroaded, and they're against her. So sometimes you just changing the attitude of some of these people. They look at it from another viewpoint, so you gotta change how to look at it from another. . . . Make up---lot of times I'm making up something to make them [understand]—"Oh, look at from this view." Okay now, when you change the attitude, then we can progress again back to the focal point.

HY: And what about with the court system?

BN: That was not my bag. I didn't have to go to court. I referred and let the social worker do it. Of course, maybe I should've charged more people, but I give 'em a chance. I feel, "Next time I catch you." I give 'em a warning, "Next time I'm gonna take you to court." But the relationship [with the abusive parents]—and we can talk one-on-one—but they'll call me, "Ho, you know, I hit my kid [but], not too bad."

"Okay, okay." You know, working with them. [When] it's a communication problem [between parents and their children], [it's] easy to work with.

HY: What were some of the cases that you had that stand out in your mind?

BN: Oh, in terms of runaway, I had a teenager that ran, and ran, and ran. She was an adopted child by a prominent family, and she was disliked by the natural children. She just kept running and running, it was hard. She ended up at the training school. The grandfather said—he was one of the big managers of the city—and he said, "This is worse," you know, when he wanted to sit in on the counseling, and how hard it is to get people to listen, he said, "This is worse than running the city." (Chuckles) But I got to see her later. She had tattoos all over her body.

Now, once in a while, you run across them and they're doing real good. You feel successful, that in the later years, they're able to remember that all the hard times we had with them, but helping hand, again, was the way to guide them through. Even if they went over to the training school, there was the relationship we had. They held no grudges against me. We tried as much---I used to sit in my car and go hunt for runaways and stuff. "Okay, here I am, get in the backseat. Get in." You know, respect huh? To the extent . . .

HY: What did you mean, go hunt for runaways?

BN: We had to go look for runaways.

HY: Specific people you knew you were looking for?

BN: No, we're assigned a case. We're assigned a case. "This is your case, here."

HY: Go find that person . . .

BN: Go find that person. And then you can offer the service. So it took time to go scout out their hideouts.

HY: What were some common places you found runaways?

BN: Friends' homes. You gotta figure out the families. Waikīkī gangs. You know, there were gangs at the time. We used to hold morning raids—members of our division. "Okay, we're going into Waikīkī, there's a cluster, we know a hangout where they're sleeping." Go inside, "Okay you guys, come on, get up. Let's go. You under arrest." Real casual, I mean, you couldn't walk into something like that anymore. There were no guns involved at that time. "Okay, let's round 'em up. Let's go, you all under arrest." We gotta go back, book 'em, and throw 'em in the detention home.

But they respected—the minute they saw you, "Okay, okay, I'm caught. All right, let's go."

But I tell 'em, "You gonna get help. You gonna get services." You know, we got something to offer. If you're gonna just do something for nothing, they're not gonna toe the line. But I say, "No, no. Help is coming." Like, I used to run and, "Okay, let's get you all summertime—summer jobs." Get them placed.

"Okay."

And if they ran away, I take them back to work and say, "Okay, get back to work now."

HY: Now, you said that you couldn't do that now—your morning raid—in the same way that you did . . .

BN: Yeah, because of drugs, gangs, weapons.

HY: For your own safety?

BN: Yeah, yeah. Before, we were assigned a gun, but I never (laughs)—don't even know where I placed it. Half of the time I didn't carry it.

HY: What about by the time you retired? Were you carrying your gun regularly?

BN: No.

HY: No.

BN: No. I felt that we could out-talk them. Having a gun was not the thing that's going to work.

You're not going to use it, so. I mean, we needed---that was one of the things of the job, to carry a gun, but I never had to have it available.

HY: You said there were gangs back then. What were the gangs like that are different than they are today?

BN: Clustering. Running around in groups. Just for seeking shelter, I guess, as the strength of living together in groups. But not . . .

HY: Did they fight with each other, like gang rivalries?

BN: No, no, no, not that kind of gang rivalry.

HY: Is it something like an offshoot of a club in a way?

BN: Yeah, club or strength in numbers to survive on the streets, out on the street someplace. You very seldom find a runaway—a loner. You know that's---they cannot survive without help.

HY: Well, I read stuff about runaways in more current times that there are a lot in Waikīkī, and not only just locally, but from . . .

BN: Oh, from the Mainland.

HY: From the Mainland as well. Now did you find that to be true?

BN: Now, it is a status offense, noncriminal. So it's not something that you can arrest and put in the detention home.

HY: Unless they commit some sort of . . .

BN: Another crime, yeah. Fought against placement, yeah. We had to go straight into shelter homes if we found the runaways, direct referrals to shelters, bypassing the detention home and the family court. They didn't want to get involved. We were overloading the criminal system. So it was a change. As far as gangs now, you know, we have a lot more immigrants—Filipino gangs, Korean gangs, Samoan gangs. That's gang rivalry. We didn't have that kind of problem. I'm glad of that, too. (Chuckles)

HY: So when you retired in 1990 from the police force, did you retire because it was time to, or were there other reasons why you decided to leave?

BN: I hit my max, and my husband had retired the year before that, so I said, "Okay, it's time to go." I guess the attitude, the working relationship, wasn't the greatest anymore.

HY: With your fellow officers? Or with your community?

BN: No, no, [with] leadership.

HY: More leadership than the department.

BN: Yeah, it was just---became more heavily on spouse abuse and arrest them, refer 'em to court and all that. I mean, no chance to work too heavily with social workers. I said, "Uh, that's enough." I still serve the community though. I've been twenty years with the neighborhood board, and I've been on a community advisory—Kapi'olani Community College [KCC]—I've been on the provost advisory club. Community advisory board for KCC when we were trying to get Kapi'olani [campus location] from Pensacola to Diamond Head. We needed to lobby. And I used to go camping a lot at Kualoa, and so there was an advisory committee out there, looking at the master plan of Kualoa. And then I guess, I don't know how many years now—four, five years—I've been on the Public Safety Correction Industries Advisory Committee.

HY: You work at the police department still with some of this community work that you still do?

BN: No, not at all. I haven't even gone back. (Chuckles) But I'm working with public safety now, correction. And we're working with inmates to get them employed and get paid for the work that they do. So, again, it's related. Related in the sense---I mean, I don't have immediate contact with the inmates, but yet in a field of. . . . It gives us a commission [where] we kind of go over the paperwork that the inmates—the type of work that they [do]. Just to make sure that they're toeing the mark, too (laughs). And lobbying for keeping correction industries approved by the legislature, so that they give some funding—I mean, position funding.

HY: Now, are you still active with your interest in athletics? Or are you . . .

BN: Well, while I was at Pālama, I was the coach and player of volleyball and basketball teams. We competed in the community leagues. And that was heavy about twenty-five years, and I played intramurals. And then recently, I haven't been up to par as far as competitive sport, but I've been attending the university's women's basketball, volleyball, and the men's volleyball activities.

HY: So you're active as a spectator?

BN: Spectator now, yeah, yeah. So that was change—but yet, you know, being involved and watching the sports. So, that's how life goes everyday now over here at Elk's [Club].

HY: Anything else you'd like to add about anything, your years at Pālama or on the police force?

BN: No, no.

HY: Okay, thank you very much.

BN: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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